

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: E. Marlowe Goble, et al.

Serial No.: 10/687,865

Filed: October 17, 2003

For: **Facet Joint Implant**

Examiner:

Group Art
Unit:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed listed references is disclosed so as to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned associate believes that the enclosed art is the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware.

No item of information contained herein was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

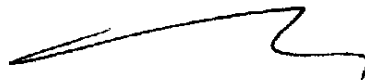
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each of the listed references or relevant portion thereof is also enclosed.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE OF REFERENCES LISTED UNACCOMPANIED BY
ENGLISH TRANSLATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.98(A)(3)

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3), the following concise explanation of the relevance of each listed reference that is not in the English language and unaccompanied by a translation into English is provided.

Dated this the 12th day of January 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATIONS MADE BY APPLICANT

U.S. Patent Documents

<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Issue/Publication Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
____ 1.	US7087084	8/8/2006	Reiley, Mark A.
____ 2.	US20040092932A1	1/15/2004	Reiner, Alberto
____ 3.	US20050171609A1	8/4/2005	Humphreys, Steven C.

Foreign Patent Documents

<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Country or Patent Office</u>	<u>Translation</u>
____ 4.	WO06102443	9/28/2006	WIPO	N/A

Examiner:

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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Other Documents

(including author, title, pertinent pages, etc.)

Examiner

Initial*

References Cited by Applicants

While the filing of Information Disclosure Statements is voluntary, the procedure is governed by the guidelines of Section 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. To be considered a proper Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 shall be accompanied by a copy of each listed patent or publication or other item of information and a translation of the pertinent portions of foreign documents (if an existing translation is readily available to the applicant), an explanation of relevance of each reference not in the English language, and should be submitted in a timely manner as set out in MPEP Sec. 609.

Examiners will consider all citations submitted in conformance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and MPEP Sec. 609 and place their initials adjacent the citations in the spaces provided on this form. Examiners will also initial citations not in conformance with the guidelines which may have been considered. A reference may be considered by the Examiner for any reason whether or not the citation is in full conformance with the guidelines. A line will be drawn through a citation if it is not in conformance with the guidelines AND has not been considered. A copy of the submitted form, as reviewed by the Examiner, will be returned to the applicant with the next communication. The original of the form will be entered into the application file.

Each citation initialed by the Examiner will be printed on the issued patent in the same manner as references cited by the Examiner on Form PTO-892.

The reference designations "A1," "A2," etc. (referring to Applicant's reference 1, Applicant's reference 2, etc.) will be used by the Examiner in the same manner as Examiner's reference designations "A," "B," "C," etc. on Office Action Form PTO-1142.

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Examiner:

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
